

which, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, May 13, 1996, stood at \$5,094,150,618,714.59. On a per capita basis, the existing Federal debt amounts to \$19,234.76 for every man, woman, and child in America on a per capita basis.

The increase in the national debt in the 24 hours since my report yesterday—which identified the total Federal debt as of close of business on Friday, May 10, 1996—shows an increase of more than \$1 billion—\$1,335,403,008.84, to be exact. That 1-day increase alone is enough to match the total amount needed to pay the college tuition for each of the 198,015 students for 4 years.

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK LOWE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, America is a nation that has a fascination with pop culture, especially the movies and television, and individuals often form their opinions about issues based on what they see on screens in their living room or in a theater. Unfortunately, this practice often leads to misimpressions about the facts of life. Take for example organized crime. So often in movies and television shows, those who are involved in organized crime are depicted as sharp dressed and honorable men who simply choose to make their money and live their lives outside the law. One cannot help but have a romanticized and idealized notion of what it is like to be a wiseguy.

To those of us who understand and study such issues, we know that nothing could be further from the truth. The real faces of organized crime are the heartless killers and goons who put a stranglehold on trucking, rackets, and unions, they are not manicured, honorable men; they are the outlaw bikers who peddle methamphetamines and dabble in white slavery, they are not fun loving rebels who just want to ride motorcycles; they are the gangs from our cities' ghettos who wholesale crack and terrorize neighborhoods with their indiscriminate violence, they are not misunderstood youths; and, they are the "new mafias" from places such as Russia, Mexico, and Vietnam, men and women who prefer intimidation and criminal enterprise to hard work, unlike their honest immigrant peers who are fighting to realize the American dream. Organized crime is about as an ideal lifestyle as having a terminal disease, and it is just as deadly and destructive. Simply put, in a nation of laws, there is no room to tolerate organizations whose sole reason for existence is to commit crime and victimize hard working and honest Americans.

In the last 30 years, the Federal Government has begun to take the fight against organized crime right to the enemy's doorstep. Through statutes such as RICO, the allocation of resources dedicated to combating organized crime, and intensified cooperation between law enforcement agencies, we are making real progress in

subduing our Nation's criminal classes. Today, I want to take a moment to salute an individual who has devoted his life to this fight, Mr. Charles D. "Chuck" Lowe, who serves as the Director of the Regional Organized Crime Information Center.

Chuck Lowe began his career in law enforcement back in the late 1950's as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard's New York City Port Security Unit. In that position, he worked closely with the New York Police Department, the Customs Service, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Certainly it must have been his time fighting crime in the city that never sleeps where he found the career he loved and he learned the importance and effectiveness of cooperation between enforcement agencies. In the years following Chuck's enlistment in the Coast Guard, he served ably and capably with the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Department as a plainclothes detective, and then with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. During his 22-year career with BATF, Chuck was involved in a multitude of interesting and dangerous cases, he helped to protect the President, and he held a number of key leadership positions within that agency. His efforts as a Federal agent earned him numerous citations and recognitions, including awards for superior performance, case preparation, and training.

In 1988, Chuck left the BATF to join the Regional Organized Crime Information Center [ROCIC], an organization committed to collecting, evaluating, analyzing, and disseminating information concerning whitecollar career criminals, narcotics violators, gangs, and other violent offenders. As he had done in his previous assignments, Chuck immediately threw himself into his work, and it was a surprise to no one when he became the Director of ROCIC in 1991, only 3 short years after joining the organization.

Under his supervision, ROCIC has grown tremendously, more than tripling the number of agencies it serves, and it has greatly expanded the services it provides to its 1,157 members. His efforts to modernize ROCIC have improved morale at that agency, made it more efficient, and has given law enforcement officers a potent tool with which to coordinate their efforts against organized crime.

Mr. President, it is with regret that I report that Chuck Lowe has decided to hang up his badge and gun and retire from his distinguished career as a law enforcement leader. In his more than 30-year career as a cop, Chuck has contributed much to keeping our streets safe. We are proud of the work he has done and we wish him well in the years to come.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon to very briefly follow up on a rather lengthy

statement I made on May 3 regarding the present intellectual property rights dispute with the People's Republic of China. Since then, I have read a number of reports in the Chinese media regarding their view of the present situation which I feel bear examination and call for some response.

First, I am struck by the fact that the Chinese Government's position on its level of compliance with the IPR agreement appears to be somewhat schizophrenic. On the one hand, I have seen statements from both the Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation stating, for example, that "the Chinese side has fully and conscientiously carried out its duties as stipulated in [the] Sino-U.S. IPR Agreement." On the other hand, I have also read statements from the same spokesmen for the same ministries tacitly acknowledging that China has not adhered to the letter of the agreement but falling back on the excuse that "demanding that a developing country such as China do a perfect job [in regards to enforcing the terms of the Agreement] within a short few years is not practical as well as unfair."

Well Mr. President, which is it? I, and most other observers I believe, would credit the latter as being closer to the truth. Starting from that premise, I would remind the Chinese that we are not asking that they do a perfect job of rooting out IPR piracy. We are simply asking that they adhere to an agreement that they signed; we are simply asking that they live up to their voluntarily assumed responsibilities. If, as the Chinese assert, it is unfair for us to assume that they can try to stem IPR piracy in only a few years, then why on Earth did they sign the agreement to do so in the first place? How can it be unfair to hold the Chinese to their own word?

It is sort of like two ranchers who sign a contract, one agreeing to buy 10 head of cattle from another. The buyer takes the 10 head, but gives the seller only one-third of the agreed-on payment. When the seller complains, the buyer says that it's unfair to blame him for not living up to the agreement in full because he doesn't have enough money to pay for all 10 head. Well, the buyer knew going into the deal that he couldn't live up to his side of the agreement, but went ahead in spite of that and signed it anyway. So who is the guilty party, Mr. President, certainly not the aggrieved seller.

Second, the Chinese have repeatedly stated that they are opposed to our imposition of sanctions because economic and trade disputes "should be settled through consultations in the spirit of mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit." Well Mr. President, we have tried consultations, only to have the Chinese side continually promise adherence but fail to carry through. As the Chinese are so fond of saying, "deeds speak louder than words"; and their deeds clearly show that they are not living up to the agreement. We

have tried mutual respect, but there is no mutual respect when one side systematically fails to live up to an agreement. We have tried mutual benefit, but there is no mutual benefit when IPR piracy in the People's Republic of China costs United States' companies in excess of \$2 billion in lost revenue per year.

Third, as I noted in my last statement, I have noticed a tendency on the part of some Chinese officials when faced with statements regarding the lack of Chinese adherence to the agreement to attempt to deflect the criticism by taking the offensive and claiming that the United States has not held up its side of the agreement. Unfortunately, Mr. President, when pressed for specific examples of that alleged non-compliance, my Chinese friends have grown somewhat vague and noncommittal.

Mr. President, as the two sides continue 11-hour talks on this impasse, I hope that the Chinese side will remember that it is the United States, and not them, that is the aggrieved party.

THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, on May 16 in Boston and Fall River in Massachusetts, volunteers and supporters from throughout the Nation will gather to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Dollars for Scholars program. It is fitting that this celebration take place in Massachusetts. Our State is the home of the Nation's first Dollars for Scholars chapter, which was founded in Fall River by Dr. Irving Fradkin, a local optometrist. Thirty-five years ago this month, the Dollars for Scholars parent organization was formally incorporated in Boston. From its roots in Massachusetts, Dollars for Scholars has grown to 760 chapters in 40 States. Last year, chapters across the country raised a total of \$15.8 million and helped over 15,000 students achieve greater educational opportunity.

Massachusetts has some of the most successful Dollars for Scholars chapters in the country. Its 68 chapters last year alone awarded more than \$1.5 million in college scholarships to over 2,500 students. In Boston, Holyoke, Worcester, Middleboro, Gloucester, and other communities, local citizens are reaching out to young men and women with a powerful message about the importance of education. Since its founding in Fall River, Dollars for Scholars chapters in Massachusetts have had a significant impact in our State—distributing a total of \$17.5 million in scholarships to more than 37,000 students.

The 35th anniversary events being held in Boston and Fall River this week are part of the Year of the Scholar activities across the country. The Year of the Scholar salutes the 30,000 volunteers who have helped colleges and communities across the country

work cooperatively to confront the rising costs of higher education. It celebrates the success of student scholars who have been able to go college with the help of the Dollars for Scholars Program. Dollars for Scholars deserves great credit for its extraordinary work in helping students fulfill their dream of a college education.

Education is the key to the work force of the future and the Nation's role in the global economy. Access to quality education for all citizens is a national priority. All children deserve an opportunity to learn and fulfill their potential. We must continue to improve our schools and make college education more accessible and affordable, in order to build a stronger economy and maintain a strong democracy.

I commend the citizens of Massachusetts for their long-standing commitment to education for all, and I am honored to take this opportunity to congratulate the Dollars for Scholars volunteers for their impressive work on this auspicious anniversary.

Mr. GORTON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, what is the state of the business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

PREVENTING A VOTE ON REPEAL OF THE GAS TAX

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, in connection with the debate, which I suspect will soon be superseded by debate on a budget agreement, a few points are still very, very much in order.

No. 1, there is a concerted effort here on the floor of the Senate to prevent a vote on a reduction in the gas tax, a reduction triggered by the rapid runup in the price of a commodity of vital importance to every American. But I think often overlooked in this debate is the fact that this is not just any run-of-the-mill gas or motor vehicle fuel tax.

This tax, imposed about 3 years ago at the time of President Clinton's first budget, represented an unprecedented change in the use of motor vehicle fuel tax. Always previously here in the Congress—and for all practical purposes almost always in our States—motor vehicle fuel taxes were used for transportation purposes, generally for the construction and maintenance of highways, but more frequently in the recent past for mass transit systems, whether bus related or on fixed rails.

As such, motor vehicle fuel taxes were usually less objected to by the vast majority of people than was the case with many others taxes because they could see what they were getting for their money, because one paid in proportion to one's use of those very transportation facilities.

President Clinton, however, flouted that convention in 1993 and determined that this gas tax was to be used for var-

ious social purposes. As the junior Senator from Missouri so eloquently put it a couple of days ago, the net result was that people who must use their automobiles to get back and forth to work were paying a tax to pay welfare to people who were not working at all and, in some cases, had no intention of doing so.

So, Mr. President, the concentration on the removal of this tax is not only based on the proposition that the American people are too heavily taxed as it is but on the fact that this one is peculiarly unfair and peculiarly unprecedented. Nevertheless, the vote was taken a couple of hours ago on this floor. Once again there was an eloquent statement on the part of the President's party that they would not allow this repeal to come to a vote.

The second element of that filibuster is directed at the TEAM Act, an act absolutely essential to validate the new sense of cooperation which is gaining wider and wider acceptance in labor-management relations across the United States and, indeed, is necessary if we are to meet the competitive pressures of the present economic world. Close to 90 percent of American workers in the private sector are not unionized and have chosen not to be. Yet, they are prohibited from entering into voluntary relationships with their employers to discuss matters of common interest, of morale, of productivity, of the very future of their jobs by a recent ruling of the Supreme Court enforced by the National Labor Relations Board.

A TEAM Act to encourage that cooperation will be of great importance in enhancing American competitiveness and in making many American workplaces happier and more interesting places for the vast majority of Americans to spend their working hours.

Because of their distaste for each of these proposals, the President's party, ironically enough, they are filibustering an increase in the minimum wage, a proposition made out to be of urgent and vital importance, more important than anything else before this body. Their actions speak louder than their words in this connection. They are not willing to let the majority of this body make a judgment on a gas tax repeal and on the TEAM Act while at the same time increasing the minimum wage if those issues are joined together, though, of course, it was originally their idea to join the minimum wage to an immigration bill to which it had no relationship whatsoever.

Finally, of course, Mr. President, underlying all of this bill is a modest, House-passed piece of legislation to provide overdue and just relief to those wrongfully fired from the White House Travel Office 2 years ago and, in one case, prosecuted for actions determined not to have been remotely criminal by a jury.

So three significant matters are now being filibustered by the President's